

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Nationwide, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the arts. Thanks to historic investments, the NEA is helping the arts and cultural sector to recover, rebuild, and reopen. In 2020:**

- Arts and cultural production in South Carolina added **2.4%** or **\$5.9 billion** to the state's economy.
- South Carolina's arts and cultural industries employed **49,984** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling over **\$3.2 billion**.

## GRANTS TO THE STATE

**Over a five-year period (FY 2018-2022), the NEA distributed \$8,944,748 in federal funds to grant applicant organizations in this state, either directly or through state and regional partners.**

The Arts Endowment awarded **72** direct grants throughout South Carolina over the past 5 years, totaling **\$8,193,798**. These direct grants included:

- The Joye in Aiken performing arts festival and related educational activities
- An annual poetry retreat focused on nurturing Southern poets of color
- The creation of a mural at the Anderson Arts Center

## NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE STATE

*In addition to offering direct grants, the NEA supports national initiatives benefiting people across the country. Over the past five years:*

**Blue Star Museums** program provided free admission to thousands of active military personnel and their families at **35** participating museums in South Carolina.

**Poetry Out Loud** program provided opportunities for an average of **2,611** students per year attending **50** unique high schools in South Carolina to appreciate—through study, memorization, and public recitation— great poetry.

The **NEA Big Read** program generated **19** community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **356** adults and students in South Carolina.

